

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK W. BALLANCE, JR.

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather, I was not present for rollcall votes Nos. 6 and 7. Had I been present, on rollcall vote No. 6, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 7, I would have voted "yea."

MEDICAL DEVICES TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act of 2003. This bill will help ensure medical devices are quickly approved and sent to market as intended by the Medical Device User Fee Modernization Act of 2002. In particular, the bill will clarify FDA third-party inspection requirements to ensure companies can use third-party inspectors for two consecutive inspections. Additionally, the legislation will authorize HHS to conduct a study to identify barriers to market entry for pediatric products, which often help small populations and, therefore, are not profitable to manufacturers.

These clarifications are critical to the medical device industry in the United States, which leads the world in the development and manufacturing of medical technology. Medical device companies produce nearly \$78 billion annually and generate nearly 6 percent annual growth. The products produced by these companies have a tremendous impact on our country's economy by creating great high-paying American jobs and consistently generating annual trade surpluses in the billions of dollars.

Advances in medical technology are improving the quality of life for people around the world as new and more effective treatments for various diseases and medical conditions are developed. New medical technology also helps reduce the cost of health care and Medicare as health problems are prevented and treated more easily through early detection, less invasive procedures and faster recovery times for the patient.

The medical device industry is critical to the economy of Indiana as well as the district I represent, Indiana's 3rd district. A large majority of the nation's orthopaedic devices are produced in Warsaw, Indiana, where DePuy, Zimmer and Biomet, three of the Nation's leading companies in orthopaedic devices are located. These companies control roughly 40 percent of the global market share of orthopaedic joint replacements and generate \$4 billion dollars annually in sales. The combined economic and societal impacts of these three companies to my district and the state are highly significant. I commend the House for summarily passing H.R. 3493 and I encourage my colleagues in the other body to vote in favor of H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act of 2003.

NATIONAL NURSE ANESTHETISTS WEEK

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, during this week, the fifth annual National Nurse Anesthetists Week, I recognize the work of nurse anesthetists and the important role they play in the delivery of safe and effective health care. This year, millions of Americans will undergo surgery or deliver a baby, and most of them will receive their anesthesia care directly from a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). During this week devoted to recognizing the work of CRNAs, CRNAs are celebrating their long history of providing safe anesthesia care.

I would like to thank the more than 30,000 members of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), AANA's president, Tom McKibban, AANA's Executive Director, Jeffery Beutler, and the staff of the AANA for their effort in promoting measures to ensure that Americans across our nation have access to quality health care services at the times they need it most. More than their promotion of commonsense legislation, though, I want to thank the AANA and its members for the work they do everyday in providing excellent care for their patients in what are often challenging and trying times for these Americans and their loved ones. In addition, CRNAs practice in every setting and are the sole anesthesia provider in more than two-thirds of all rural hospitals, ensuring that most Americans can have access to care within their own community.

In addition to being a main provider within America's borders, CRNAs are also the main provider of anesthesia care to American service men and women stationed around the world. Overseas, CRNAs have been on the front lines supporting U.S. troops since World War I, and presently more than 165 nurse anesthetists are on duty in Iraq, comprising nearly 80 percent of the anesthesia providers serving in the conflict. For their service to their country and our men and women in uniform, our nation and this Congress will always be grateful.

In my own state of Georgia, there are currently 793 AANA members who provide care for the people of Georgia. I would also like to thank these CRNAs, Martha Kral, the President of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists (GANA), and Janice Izlar, GANA's Federal Political Director, for the quality health care services they provide to the people of Georgia.

It is my honor to recognize National Nurse Anesthetists Week and the work of CRNAs across the country. In the year ahead, I look forward to continuing to work with the AANA, that GANA, and CRNAs from across Georgia and across the nation to promote patient safety and to educate patients and their families about their anesthesia options and nurse anesthesia providers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like the RECORD to show that I was unable to attend votes yesterday, January 27, 2004, due to inclement weather in Washington, DC that prevented my return. Should I have been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 1385. I would have also voted "yea" on H.R. 3493, the "Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FREDERICK AND BARBARA MCGEHAN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two faithful public servants who are constituents of mine, Barbara and Frederick McGehan.

Fred McGehan, the Public Affairs Officer and Director of the Boulder Public Affairs Office at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Boulder, is retiring in February after 30 years of service at NIST. Barbara McGehan, the Public Affairs Officer for the NOAA Research Laboratories in Boulder, retired at the end of 2003, after 21 years of service to the Federal Government, 18 years dedicated to serving the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Boulder. I've had the pleasure of working with both Fred and Barbara for the last five of their many years in the Federal Government.

After earning her Bachelor of Arts in History and Government at the State University of New York at Buffalo, Barbara worked for U.S. Rep. Richard McCarthy in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1965 to 1968. She worked for the Maryland Democratic Party from 1971 to 1973. She and Fred moved to Colorado in 1977, where Barb worked at the Sacred Heart of Mary Church, first on the church newsletter and later as a substitute teacher at Sacred Heart School.

In November 1985, Barbara started at NOAA in Boulder with the program that became the NOAA Forecast Systems Laboratory (FSL). She worked for FSL until 1994, when she accepted the position of Public Affairs Officer for NOAA in Boulder.

Fred graduated from Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1963 with a B.A. degree in English, and afterward from Columbia University with a graduate degree in journalism. Fred put his education and training to good use by working as a general assignment reporter at the Providence Journal in Rhode Island, and then covering science, space and medicine for Newhouse National News Service and the Baltimore Sun. With his experience in news reporting under his belt, Fred began his "next career" in public affairs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (then known as the National Bureau of Standards) in its headquarters laboratory in Gaithersburg, Maryland, in 1974.